(d) what steps are being taken to balance the production capacities in Vizag Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rated capacity of hot metal production from Blast Furnaces at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) has been fixed to match the production of liquid steel, rolled products (i.e. saleable steel) and pig-iron at the required levels, i.e., 3.4 million tonnes of hot metal are required to produce 3 million tonnes of liquid steel and 0.556 million tonne of pig-iron. 3 million tonnes of liquid steel will be converted into 2.656 million tonnes of rolled products.

(c) The production and capacity utilisation of hot metal, liquid (crude) steel and saleable steel in respect of VSP and SAIL (including IISCO) during 1993-94 are given below:

	Item	VSP		SAIL (including IISCO)	
		Production	% Capacity Utilisation	Production	% Capacity Utilisation
1.	Hot Metal	2369	70	10968	91
2.	Liquid (Crude) Steel	1355	45	9828	89
3.	Saleable Steel	1184	45	8645	98

(Qty. in '000 tonnes)

(d) While the upstream units upto Blast Furnace and rolling mills in the downstream have almost been stabilised in VSP, the Steel Melting Shop and the continuous casting machines will take some more time-to stabilise. Based on the present trend of production and various measures taken by VSP Management such as training of VSP personnel, technical assistance from a world renowned steel manufacturer/ technologist, some modifications in Steel Melting Shop etc., these units are expected to achieve 100% rated capacity by 1996-97.

Dividend Declared by SAIL

3367. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL declared a dividend of only two percent at the last Annual General Meeting;

(b) what are the reasons for this low dividend;

(c) whether SAIL propose to enhance its profitability;

(d) whether overhead expenses of SAIL are extremely high; and

(e) if so, what are the total expense of SAIL offices in Delhi in 1993-94, which would include salaries, rent and every other item of expense?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons of low rate of dividend are:

(i) Ploughing back of a considerable portion of profits for development and growth of the company, and

(ii) the high equity base of the company.

(c) SAIL is taking various steps on continuous basis to enhance its profitability which include:

1. Increase in capacity utilisation,
2. Improving productivity,
3. Energy conservation,
4. Effective maintenance of equipments,
5. Modernisation and balancing investments,
6. Improving product-mix, making value added items and meeting customers requirements, and
7. Cost control and cost reduction measures etc.

(d) No, Sir. Overhead expenses are not high and are compatible with the size, activities and area of operation of the organisation.

(e) The total expenses for running the offices in Delhi maintained by SAIL corporate office during 1993-94 are Rs. 30 crores which constitutes only 0.26% of the turnover of SAIL.

Steel Development Fund

3368. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's steel production fell short of the anticipated levels by nearly two million tonnes and was about 15.13 million tonnes in 1993-94 indicating figures for 1992-93;

(b) what was the anticipated target of finished steel and the apparent consumption in 1993-94 as compared to 1992-93 and 1991-92;

(c) what quantum of fund are available as on 30th July, 1994 with the Steel Development Fund this year indicating disbursement thereof to SAIL, TISCO, IISCO and VSP so far; and

(d) what remedial steps Government propose to take or taken so far to ensure that steel output does not falls short of target in the country during 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As against a production of 17.24 million tonnes anticipated at the beginning of the year, the production of finished steel during 1993-94 was 15.13 million tonnes. In 1992-93, as against the anticipated production of 16.12 million tonnes, the production of finished steel was 15.20 million tonnes.

(b) The estimated domestic demand of finished steel and apparent consumption from 1991-92 to 1993-94 was as under:—

(In million tonnes)

Year	Domestic Demand Estimates at the beginning of the year	Apparent Consumption during the year
1993-94	17.56	15.17
1992-93	16.80	15.00
1991-92	15.88	14.84

(c) The quantum of funds received in Steel Development Fund upto 30th July, 1994 was Rs. 6789 crores. The loan disbursement to the various steel producers as on 31.3.1994 was as under:—

(Rs./crores)

	Loan Disbursement upto 31.3.1994
SAIL	5151.16
TISCO	44.68
IISCO	989.20
VSP	40.00
Total:	6225.04

(d) Various steps have been taken by the Government to increase production of steel to meet the projected demand. These include:—

(i) Modernisation and expansion of public sector steel plants;

(ii) De-regulation of the steel industry and its exemption from the requirements of compulsory licencing to encourage and facilitate the establishment of additional capacity in private sector;

(iii) Reduction of customs duties on import of capital goods and inputs for the steel industry to make it more cost competitive.

रिहायशी आवास को बदलने के लिए आवेदन

3369. **श्री परमेश्वर कुमार अग्रवाल:** क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रिहायशी आवास बदलने के लिए सरकारी कर्मचारियों से प्राप्त बड़ी संख्या में आवेदन काफी समय से अनिर्णीत पड़े हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि आवास खाली होने पर ऐसे कर्मचारियों को "बारी से पहले" आवंटित किये जाते हैं जोकि वरीयता सूची के अनुसार भी इनके लिए पात्रता नहीं रखते; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?